

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 VO-03 CIAE-00 FBIE-00  
INSE-00 NSAE-00 /021 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:BAFLECK:PAW

APPROVED BY EA/PHL:BAFLECK

D/HA/ORM:LARTHUR (INFO COPY)

D/HA:KHILL (INFO COPY)

SCA/VO:MGROENEWEG (INFO COPY)

-----102817 221655Z /43

R 211354Z OCT 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, RP

SUBJECT:LOPEZ AND OSMENA

1. EUGENIO LOPEZ, JR., AND SERGIO OSMENA III, ACCOMPANIED BY STEVE PSINAKIS, CALLED ON COUNTRY DIRECTOR FLECK OCTOBER 19. AFTER EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THE COURTEOUS AND SENSITIVE WAY IN WHICH THEY WERE TREATED BY THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE OFFICIALS UPON THEIR ARRIVAL IN CALIFORNIA, AND RECOUNTING DETAILS OF THEIR ESCAPE FROM THE PHILIPPINES, THEY INDICATED THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE CALL WAS TO DISCUSS (1) THE SITUATION OF THE FAMILIES OF LOPEZ AND ALMEDA-LOPEZ AND (2) THE PLANS AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF LOPEZ AND OSMENA.

2. LOPEZ STATED THAT HIS WIFE AND THREE CHILDREN IN  
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MANILA HAD BOOKED PASSAGE FOR A FLIGHT FROM MANILA TO THE UNITED STATES ON OCTOBER 20. THEY HAD NOT YET OBTAINED EITHER PASSPORTS OR VISAS, HOWEVER. UNDER THE NEW REGULATIONS PERMITTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENS TO TRAVEL ABROAD, PASSPORT APPLICATIONS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE APPROVED WITHIN FOUR DAYS. HOWEVER, SEVEN DAYS HAD NOW PASSED SINCE MRS. LOPEZ HAD MADE APPLICATION AND SHE KEPT RECEIVING

EVASIVE REPLIES TO HER INQUIRIES. IN VIEW OF PRESIDENT MARCOS' PUBLICIZED STATEMENT THAT THE FAMILIES SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO VISIT THE FUGITIVES, LOPEZ STATED THE RUN-AROUND HIS WIFE WAS RECEIVING, AS WELL AS THE CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE SHE WAS NOW UNDER, CONSTITUTED HARASSMENT BY THE GOP.

3. FLECK INFORMED LOPEZ THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD ALREADY BEGUN CONSIDERATION OF HIS FAMILY'S DESIRE TO JOIN HIM BUT THAT CERTAIN PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS REMAINED TO BE OVERCOME. IN THE FIRST PLACE, NO ACTION WITH REGARD TO HIS FAMILY WOULD BE TAKEN UNTIL AFTER HIS OWN STATUS HAD BEEN FINALLY ACTED UPON BY THE INS. HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN COULD NOT QUALIFY FOR NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS INASMUCH AS THERE WAS A STRONG PRESUMPTION THAT ONCE REUNITED WITH HIM, THEY WOULD NOT WISH TO LEAVE HIM AND RETURN TO THE PHILIPPINES. LOPEZ VIGOROUSLY AFFIRMED THAT THEY WOULD INDEED WISH TO REMAIN WITH HIM IN THE UNITED STATES. THAT BEING THE CASE, FLECK CONTINUED, IT MIGHT BE EASIER TO DEAL WITH THEIR SITUATION IF THEY WERE LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE PHILIPPINES. IF LOPEZ FELT THAT THEY WERE BEING HARASSED BY THE GOP, HE MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER ADVISING THEM TO LEAVE THE PHILIPPINES AS SOON AS THE PASSPORTS WERE OBTAINED AND WAITING IN A THIRD COUNTRY UNTIL THE QUESTION OF THEIR ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES COULD BE RESOLVED. LOPEZ INDICATED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGREEMENT AND SAID THAT HE WOULD SUGGEST TO HIS WIFE THAT SHE TAKE THE CHILDREN TO HONG KONG AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY, FLECK AFFIRMED THAT THE SAME CONSIDERATIONS WOULD APPLY TO THE FAMILY OF ALMEDA-LOPEZ.

4. WITH REGARD TO THEIR FUTURE ACTIVITIES, LOPEZ AND OSMENA STATED THAT THEY HAD JOINED THE MOVEMENT FOR A FREE PHILIPPINES AND INTENDED TO WORK FOR THE OUSTER OF PRESIDENT MARCOS. FLECK REMINDED PSINAKIS OF THE PSINAKIS-HABIB MEETING IN FEBRUARY 1976 AND REITERATED THE POSITION STATED AT THAT TIME BY HABIB. FLECK EMPHASIZED THAT IF THEY INVOLVED THEMSELVES IN A MOVEMENT WHICH HAD THE AVOWED AIM OF OVERTHROWING A GOVERNMENT WITH WHICH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS FRIENDLY RELATIONS, THEY CAN EXPECT NO SUPPORT OR ASSISTANCE FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

5. PSINAKIS, LOPEZ, AND OSMENA RESPONDED THAT THEY UNDERSTOOD THE U.S. GOVERNMENT POSITION AND RESPECTED IT, BUT THAT THEY HAD TO DO WHAT THEY HAD TO DO.

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINT, SHUM, RP, (LOPEZ), (OSMENA)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009